



PRESS RELEASE

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MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during May 2005 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was down 11 percent from May 2004 and down 26 percent from April 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 383,000 pounds live weight, down 6 percent from May 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 978 pounds, was down 49 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 100,000 pounds live weight, up 8 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 271 pounds, was up 26 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in May, up 3 percent from the 3.60 billion pounds produced in May 2004.

Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 2 percent from May 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,224 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 4 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,500 head, down 10 percent from May 2004. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year, at 376 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.03 million head, 6 percent above May 2004. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was up 14 percent from May 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,000 head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 5 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2005 commercial red meat production was 18.3 billion pounds, down slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

May 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

May 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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